

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1-18, which were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over *Uemura U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0048460* in view of *De Loor et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,204,875* alone (claims 1-3, 8-12 and 16-18), or further in view of *Isono et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,249,306* (claims 4-7 and 13-15).

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

As set forth in claim 1, Applicants' invention provides a device for the digital exposure of light-sensitive materials, including, *inter alia*, an electronically activatable spatial light modulator for representing a two-dimensional part picture of a master image, imaging optics for projection of the two-dimensional part picture onto the light-sensitive material, and a rapid intermediate memory for storing a strip-like region of the master image from which the picture data for the two-dimensional part picture to be exposed in each case may be transmitted onto the light modulator synchronously with the movement of the exposure unit, and a method for the digital exposure of light

materials using same. As the Examiner has recognized, the primary reference to *Uemura* fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, imaging optics for projection of the two-dimensional part picture onto the light-sensitive material. Although the Examiner has taken the position that this feature would have been obvious from the secondary reference to *De Loor et al.*, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's position is unfounded.

Like *Uemura*, it is respectfully submitted that *De Loor et al.* fails to disclose or suggest a two-dimensional image being projected onto the light sensitive material. From the description of *De Loor et al.* one can take a "one-dimensional" multi-channel light modulator 103" (see column 6, lines 20-21 and FIG. 1), "linear multi-channel modulator 403" (see column 10, lines 17-18 and FIG. 4), array of modulated sources 703" (see column 12, lines 61-62 and FIG. 7), "array of modulated sources 802" (see column 13, lines 9-10 and FIG. 8), and "laser diode array 912" (see column 13, lines 26-27 and FIG. 9). Column 6, lines 40-45 of *De Loor et al.* relied on by the Examiner teach that one may also use a two-dimensional extended source; however, the light of the two-dimensional extended source has to be converted by a cylindrical lens to form a line shape, or a fiber optic bundle is used to convert the 2D-source shape into the line

shaped illuminating pattern, which means that all embodiments disclosed by *De Loor et al.* require a line shaped illuminating pattern or, in other words, a one-dimensional illuminating pattern. It is respectfully submitted that *De Loor et al.* fails to disclose or suggest that a two-dimensional image is projected onto the light sensitive material as stated by the Examiner.

Of course also with the apparatus disclosed by *Uemura* and *De Loor et al.* one can produce a two-dimensional image on the light sensitive material; however, the exposure is done line by line and, therefore, is more time consuming. In contrast, Applicants' device and method as recited in claims 1 and 11 can project the complete two-dimensional part picture in one moment which means that all pixels of all rows are projected at the same time while *Uemura* and *De Loor et al.* can project only one row of pixels at the same time and the rows must be exposed one after the other.

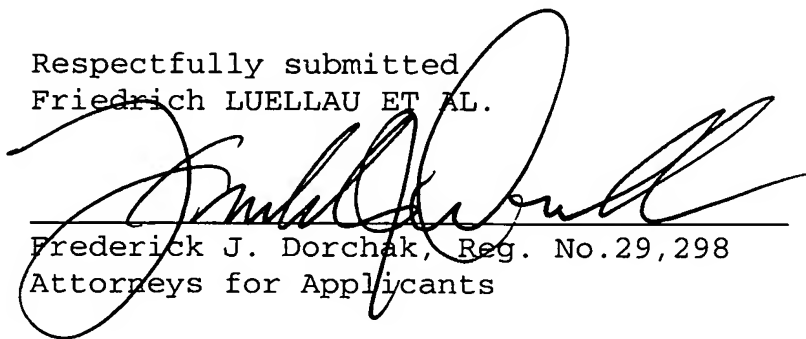
The remaining reference to *Isono et al.* cited with respect to certain dependent claims has been considered but is believed to be no more relevant. There is no disclosure or suggestion in *Isono et al.* of a device for the digital exposure of light sensitive materials or method using same having imaging optics

for the projection of the two-dimensional part picture onto the lights and sensitive material as recited in Applicants' claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 11, together with claims 2-10 and 10-18, which depend directly or indirectly on claims 1 and 11, respectively, are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted
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